

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This forced political advertising is both an imposition on local communities and a true disservice to our nation. It fundamentally undermines democracy. It adds to the popular belief that the media are no longer responsible, objective sources of information.

This action by Sinclair shows why more public involvement in the granting of licenses is required.